

House Resolution No. 4536

Whereas, it is with tremendous pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse legislative endeavors in order to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of outstanding Missouri religious institutions that help enhance the quality of life in local communities and neighborhoods through the excellence of their spiritual and educational activities; and

Whereas, Mount Zion Baptist Church of Saint Clair, Missouri, was founded on August 29, 1907, by fifteen devout members whose numbers have grown to the current 591 listed on the roster; and

Whereas, on August 26, 2007, the congregation of Mount Zion Baptist Church will celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the establishment of their esteemed spiritual institution; and

Whereas, originally constructed on pasture land donated by S.D. Belew, Mount Zion Baptist Church held its first services in June 1908 and was dedicated in July 1908 after the debt was paid; and

Whereas, since J.P. McKay accepted the call as the church's first pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church has been led by twenty-two different pastors, including Thomas Smith, who is the current and longest-serving minister and is now in his twenty-seventh year of service; and

Whereas, Mount Zion Baptist Church has enjoyed steady growth throughout its history, and in 1950 a new building was raised on the original parcel of property; and

Whereas, Mount Zion Baptist Church began holding worship services in the Edgar Murray School gymnasium in 1977 after a surge in membership made the former building too small, and in 1978 the congregation moved into a new 24,000 square-foot structure; and

Whereas, after Thomas Smith was called as pastor in 1981, Mount Zion Baptist Church began a Christian school and then a Bible College to train men for the gospel ministry; and

Whereas, the year 2002 found Mount Zion Baptist Church beginning construction on an addition, followed in 2007 by the completion of a new 20,000 square-foot building containing a 400-seat auditorium, preschool and nursery, classroom space for the Christian academy, and new offices:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with Mount Zion Baptist Church and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes as they celebrate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of their esteemed religious institution by dedicating their new building to the glory of God; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Saint Clair, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Brian Nieves
District No. 98

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4536, adopted August 22, 2007.

Rod Jetton, Speaker